

Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-11 OMB-01 EUR-12 EA-07 /082 W

----- 041736

O R 040910Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3799

INFO DOD WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1708

FOLLOWING REPEAT CALCUTTA 0302 SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO
AMEMBASSY DACCA 03 FEB 76

QUOTE:

CALCUTTA 0302

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, IN, BG

SUBJ: SITUATION ON INDIAN/BANGLADESH BORDER

1. MIDDLE GRADE OPERATIONS OFFICER FROM EASTERN COMMAND
CALLED ON CONOFF AT HIS HOME ON SOCIAL VISIT AND MADE
THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE
SITUATION ALONG THE INDIAN/BANGLADESH BORDER.

2. THE INDIAN ARMY, NORTHEAST COMMAND, WAS JUST FINISHING
UP MOST OF ITS SCHEDULED FIELD MANUEVERS AND WERE BE-
GINNING TO RETURN TO CANTONMENT POSITIONS. HE NOTED THAT
ALL MANEUVERS WOULD BE FINISHED BY LATE MARCH SINCE WEATHER
WOULD NOT BE GOOD FOR FIELD OPERATIONS AFTER THAT TIME.
INTER ALIA HE NOTED THAT MANY OFFICERS, INCLUDING HIM-
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SELF, WOULD SOON BE PUTTING IN FOR EXTENDED LEAVE.

3. THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF ACTIVITY ALONG THE BANGLADESH/ INDIAN BORDER WHICH INVOLVED THE BORDER SECURITY FORCE AND THE BANGLADESH RIFLES BUT HE SAID THAT THIS WAS PRIMARILY THE BSF TRYING TO STOP ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND THE BR TRYING TO STOP MASSIVE SMUGGLING OF GOODS INTO AND OUT OF INDIA. HE SAID THAT SINCE THE PRICE OF RICE, VEGETABLES, FISH, ETC., WAS MUCH HIGHER IN INDIA THAN BANGLADESH AND THE GOODS (I.E., CLOTH, SALT, NAILS, ETC.) MUCH CHEAPER AND MORE EASILY AVAILABLE IN INDIA SMUGGLING WAS INCREASINGLY PROFITABLE FOR BANGLADESH NATIONALS. IN ADDITION, HE NOTED THAT THE INDIAN RUPEE WAS MUCH STRONGER CURRENCY THAN THE TAKKA. ALL OF THE AFOREMENTIONED HE EMPHASIZED MADE FOR A GREAT DEAL OF FRICTION ALONG THE BORDER.

4. DURING DINNER CONVERSATION FEBRUARY 2 WITH KUX (NEA/INS DIRECTOR), MAJOR GENERAL H.N. SHINGAL, CHIEF OF STAFF, EASTERN COMMAND, SAID SITUATION IN BANGLADESH WAS CALM AND HE PERCEIVED NO TROUBLE LIKELY THERE "UNLESS THE USSR, CHINA, AND THE US, DECIDED TO BECOME INVOLVED. KUX ASSURED GENERAL WE HAD NO INTENTION OF GETTING INVOLVED IN ANY WAY.
LIEBOWITZ

UNQUOTE.
SAXBE

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